

Wednesday April 10th, 2013

Chairperson and Respective Members of The House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment & Great Lakes:

I write to you today, as a concerned resident of the Upper Peninsula, and citizen of this great state of Michigan, in regard to Senate Bill 0288. I agree with the process you are taking part in today, for which this bill will be heard, and deliberated among the estimable members of your committee. However I implore you, to see that this bill be unfit for further action outside of this committee. I strongly oppose the tenets put forth by this bill.

As it stands today, the legislature is solely responsible for assigning game status to members of the animal kingdom within the state of Michigan. As the wildlife of this state remains in the public trust, as do member of our elected legislative body, this alone, seems just. Assigning this great responsibility to a government agency that does not answer directly to the people, the citizenry of Michigan, is unacceptable. Furthermore, the power to retract such a designation, to exist solely within the legislature, thereby prohibiting crucial measures of checks and balances inherent to our idea of a democracy of the people, is a dangerous path to start upon.

It would be difficult not to assume that this bill, has been authored and introduced in response to the supposed success of a recent citizen referendum, enacted to oppose designation of game species status upon Michigan's gray wolves. It is only fair to admit, I personally saw a role in making the signature gathering phase of this campaign a success. As a resident of Marquette, who traveled across the entire U.P. I can assure you, substantial support for this measure exists across the entire State. This support was based on scientific testimony from wolf experts such as Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich, among others. I do not wish to deal in assumptions. So I must ask committee members of a matter of fact.

Does the legislature seek to strike the responsibility of an informed citizenship to play a role in the management of the natural resources to which we all lay claim? This legislation, Senate Bill 0288, by all accounts appears to do just that. Again, I urge you to oppose this bill, and see that the committee resumes it's noble work of more pressing matters regarding the natural resources of our Michigan.

Sincerely,

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